

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AIAC)

TRAINING AND EDUCATION GROUP (TEG)

List of action points from 6th meeting held on 22/07/10 at the Farmers Fayre Cafe, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

List of group members and guests in attendance:

Laura Biddick-Bray – Lantra Sector Skills Council (LB)

David Coackley – HSE (DC)

Katie Corrin – Lantra Awards (KC)

James Eckley – National Federation of Young Farmer’s Clubs (JE)

Tim Englefield – Askham Bryan College (TE)

David Leavesley – IOSH Rural Industries Group/NFU-Mutual Risk Management Services (DL)

Alastair Mitchell – HSE (AM)- Chair

Julie Murphy – Lantra Awards (JM)

Lee Osbourne – National Farmers Union (LO)

Alan Plom – HSE – Secretary (AP)

Jennifer Smith – Lantra Awards (JS)

Apologies:

Neil Catton – G’s Marketing/The Shropshire Group (NC)

Suzie Cave – NPTC City and Guilds (SC)

Charlie Clutterbuck – Unite, the Union (CC)

Martin Grantley Smith – Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board (MGS)

Item/Issue	Key Points and Actions	Action by
1. Introduction	The Chair welcomed members and guests to the sixth meeting of the group.	
2. Membership of the TEG	A number of new members or their deputies were attending the TEG for the first time. Lee Osbourne will be attending for NFU in future as Michael Britten had moved on. Julie Murphy was invited to join the group to replace David Owen for Lantra Awards. The chair gave a brief outline of the remit of the TEG, the Improving training and competencies project, and the health and safety VQs.	
3. Make the Promise campaign (MTP)	AP provided an update on progress with the HSE Make The Promise (MTP) campaign. Members reported they had experienced a few difficulties with accessing the new materials via the HSE web pages. DC stated that this would	DC

	<p>be fed back to the HSE team in Bootle. In particular, action to ensure that businesses as well as individuals could sign up and access the site. Members were encouraged to look at the site, sign up as 'Promise Partners' and use the materials.</p>	
<p>4. Promotional opportunities</p>	<p>AM pointed out that the number of registrations for the VQs this year were significantly down on previous years and that was cause for concern. JM suggested that Lantra Awards could promote the VQs through their network of 500 training providers and 1000 instructors. LB suggested that members organisations attending shows might be able to promote the VQs – eg at the Dairy and Livestock event. AM pointed out that materials from the MTP web pages could be used at these events. All members were encouraged to identify opportunities and to participate in promotional work.</p>	<p>JM/LB/All TEG members</p>
<p>5. Seminar – future events</p>	<p>Members agreed that any decisions on holding further seminar type events should be put on hold pending feedback. AM reported that feedback had not been forthcoming from the awarding bodies. Members were keen to find out how many people had done the training but not necessarily completed the assessment to receive the awards. LB pointed out that organising events are extremely resource intensive and this should be born in mind for any future seminar.</p>	<p>JM</p>
<p>6. Incentives – ETI and retail/supply chain</p>	<p>HSE intends to meet with a number of fresh produce suppliers and there was likely to be an opportunity to engage with other relevant suppliers at a future event organised by a major retailer. eg an autumn conference.</p> <p>(ii) AM reported on progress with an ethical trading code adopted by Tesco, Waitrose, Co-op and M&S. This is based on a very extensive set of questions. AM has looked at the health & safety elements contained within it and is now to approach the authors of the code (Impact Ltd). HSE is also to approach leading supermarkets re: collaborative working and to establish common standards for auditing purposes.</p>	<p>AM/DC</p>

7. Incentives – Farm assurance schemes	The chair reminded members that previous attempts to engage with such schemes had been unsuccessful. Members thought this area was worth pursuing once again given the link to increasing professionalism, up-skilling and the Agri Skills agenda.	AM
8. Incentives – Lantra SSC	LB had confirmed that health & safety had been raised at a meeting of Industry Partnership Managers. However, some members reported that this was still not always a standing item on the agenda at some industry groups. LB stressed that members of the individual groups were asked to submit agenda items and that health and safety issues can always be raised during meetings. AP confirmed that HSE attend many of the group meetings. NFA.	
9. Incentives – National Occupational Standards	No further feedback from Lantra re: progress on the health and safety NOS units but this might be overtaken by events as there is work in progress to develop a common approach to health and safety across a number of SSCs. Work in this area is led by Proskills.	AM/LB
10. Incentives – Agri skills Forum	LO updated members on the Agri Skills Forum. The Forum's two working groups have met. One group looking at promoting the Skills Strategy and the second looking at existing CPD schemes within the industry. The new coalition government is supportive. AM updated the group with news that the Poultry Industry CPD Scheme had been receptive to an approach on inclusion of VQs and the group would be kept informed of developments. AM is also to address the BPC.	AM/ /LO
11. Incentives - NFU farming coalition	AP/AM raised the issue of potential support from the NFU. The NFU has proposed a 'Farming Coalition' of key stakeholders, to promote the idea that safe working practice is a natural part of modern professional farming. Building on the MTP campaign, this initiative will seek a culture change whereby farmers think about safe working instinctively. The NFU is to host an event in the autumn with industry stakeholders to attend. This could be an opportunity to raise the profile of the VQs. The group wished to be kept informed of	LO/DL

	developments.	
12. College uptake of VQs	AM informed members that a review of the apprenticeship scheme was due in the autumn and that this might provide an opportunity to look at the inclusion of VQs. LB informed the group that Jo Anne Bryan from the SSC leads in this area and AM suggested an early meeting with interested parties would be beneficial.	JM/AM
13. College uptake – learning materials	The chair informed members that current work had been completed with the Land Based Colleges National Consortium (LBCNC) to produce learning materials for VQs. Materials are now available to LBCNC members on-line through www.lbcnc.org.uk . AM also explained that other health and safety packs from LBCNC have been reviewed and are useful for teaching VQs.	AM
14. College uptake – funding & promotional work	TE confirmed the lack of funding for land-based colleges and in particular the potential impact of this with regard to the uptake of VQs through the college network. The full impact of these changes had yet to be established. The chair expressed concerns that the number of student registrations for VQs were significantly lower than in previous years. AP also mentioned that HSE had spoken about VQs at two recent events attended by colleges namely the ALAM event at Reaseheath and the AEA event at Cranfield. TE confirmed a lack of funding for those aged 19+ and that short courses were not deemed a priority by colleges thereby impacting on uptake.	TE
15. College uptake – Land based and environmental specialist diplomas	LB had previously reported that the VQs can be part of the diploma but not part of the core/principal learning. The VQs could only be included as part of the Applied Specialist Learning that a student could opt to do because it is something industry sees as important and is in demand. The Applied Specialist Learning needs to compliment industry requirements. The VQ qualifications will need to be an approved option under the Applied Specialist Learning. An approach should be made to Lantra Awards (Nannette Lane) to progress this.	AM
16. Funding	Members agreed that there appeared to be	AM/LB

<p>-Government policy</p>	<p>much uncertainty over funding and the future of the RDAs.</p> <p>It was generally held that RDAs were to disappear over the next 18 months. However, current Landskills programmes are continuing to the end of their current contracts. Currently, a mid-term review is being conducted for the whole of the Rural Development Programme and discussions are underway as to how the programme will be delivered up to 2013. AP mentioned the 'Focus on Forestry First' training initiative announced recently by the Welsh Assembly Government. AM confirmed that he had attended the launch and gave brief details of the scheme. This will provide funding for training for businesses working in Wales. The coordinators were receptive to adapting the VQs for forestry/treework.</p>	
<p>17. Other matters – NFU Mutual</p>	<p>DL outlined proposals for the NFU Mutual to promote VQs through a programme of training events targeting farmers, through their Agents (NFU Branch Secretaries). A pilot is proposed in October 2010 and if successful could be rolled out nationally. Incentives to encourage uptake were being evaluated, and the Mutual would cover the costs of the training.</p> <p>JM stated that Lantra Awards might wish to link up the NFU Mutual to help deliver the training and AM offered to review the content of the current level 2 Lantra Awards training course to ensure it was still fit for purpose. DL and JM to look at possible collaborative working.</p>	<p>DL/JM/AM</p>
<p>18. Other matters – Saltex and APF</p>	<p>AP mentioned the new 'Skills and Learning Zone' at Saltex 2010 and the Safety & Training Arena at the APF show 2010, set up to promote training. The potential for VQs in the amenity and treework sectors would be highlighted in associated seminars at these events. HSE are also working closely with Lantra Awards at these events. Lantra Awards have invited Adam Henson from the BBC Countryfile programme to present a talk at Saltex on training.</p>	
<p>19. Date of next meeting</p>	<p>AM noted the renewed enthusiasm shown by members to promote the VQs and all agreed it would be worthwhile to meet again in the</p>	

	autumn of 2010 before the NFU's 'Farming Coalition' meeting. Date and venue to be confirmed.	
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Notes

The four work areas or workstreams proposed by AIAC to provide a steer for the work of the TEG and formally agreed by TEG members at the January 2009 meeting are as follows:

- (i) VQ work should focus specifically on working with some of the larger farming organisations or groups who may be more receptive to training - proposal to identify and target these organisations. This is known as the seminar workstream.
- (ii) A renewed effort should be made to identify "drivers for uptake" and other incentives given that previous attempts have had limited success - proposal to identify incentives for farmers and workers to undertake VQs. This is known as the incentives workstream
- (iii) VQs should be pursued more vigorously through the agricultural college network to facilitate greater uptake. This is known as the College workstream
- (iv) More should be done to explore potential for funding through the Regional Development Agencies in England, and their counterparts in Wales and Scotland (and other funding streams). This is known as the funding workstream

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